(b) whether it is also a fact that the CBI was asked to enquire into the scandal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the present position with regard to the investigations into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Oil Coordination Committee conducted a special audit of the accounts of the oil companies for movement of petroleum products including Bitumen. The special audit conducted by OCC revealed irregularities in transportation of Bitumen in various regions of the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As advised by CBI, the oil companies concerned have been asked to conduct a detailed enquiry and lodge formal complaints, if criminal offence is made out, with local branches of CBI where the records are available. The concerned oil companies have initiated action accordingly.

Oil transported by HPCL

403. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of oil being transported by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited within Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada Sector;

(b) the transport costs being incurred presently by HPCL for moving oil in this sector; and

(c) the projections for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The quantum of petroleum products transported by the oil industry, i.e. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and IBP Company Ltd. within the Visakhapatnam—Vijayawada Sector during the period April, 1996 to March, 1997, is given below:—

Mode of Transport	Quantity in Million Metric tonnes
By rail	1.041
By road	0.741
TOTAL	1.782

(b) The transportation costs incurred by the Oil Industry for moving petroleum products in this sector during the period April, 1996 to March, 1997 are given below:—

Mode of Transport	Cost Incurred
By rail	60.27
By road	48.18
TOTAL	108.45

(c) The projections for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:

Year	Movement (in Million Metric tonnes)
1998-99	2.666
1999-2000	2.812

Effect of Insurgency on ONGC Operations

404. DR. Y. LAKSHMIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the operations of ONGC has suffered serious set-back in Nagaland, Tripura and Assam due to insurgency;

(b) if so, the effect on ONGC operations in each of these States;

(c) whether it is a fact that in Assam, besides the extremists, the Village

Pradhans have also started pressuring ONGC for various demands;

(d) if so, the demands made by the Village Pradhans; and

(e) whether there is any likelihood of resumption of normal operations by ONGC in the near future in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The operations of ONGC have suffered in Nagaland and Tripura on account of insurgency and law and order related problems. As per the directive of the State Government of Nagaland, the crude oil production in Champang field stands suspended since May, 1994. The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. has not been in a position to operate in Baramura area in Tripura since September, 1994. However, the operations in Assam have not been seriously affected.

(b) ONGC has been spending about Rs. 4.75 crore per annum on security of its installations and personnel in Tripura. Also, they have not been able to carry out exploratory drilling in Baramura area which has good potential for enhancing gas reserves.

On account of suspension of oil production in Nagaland, ONGC has been incurring an estimated loss of 0.1 MMT of oil per annum since 1994.

(c) and (d) The Village Pradhans have been demanding for compensation in respect of drilling site, KHAH & KGP-1 falling in the nutral zone of Assam —Nagaland Border and for construction of roads, bridges etc.

(e) So far there has been no indication from the Nagaland State Government that ONGC would be in a position to resume operations immediately. As and when the situation improves further, ONGC expects to resume its normal operations in the Baramura area of Tripura.

केलकर समिति की सिफारिशें

405. **श्री गोपालसिंह जी० सोलंकी:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश में प्राकृतिक गैस के उत्पादन के क्षेत्र का विकास करने और इस संबंध में नए दिशा-निर्देश तैयार करने के लिए गठित की गई "केलकर समिति" की सिफारिशों की जांच की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त प्रत्येक सिफारिश, विशेष रूप से निजी क्षेत्र द्वारा स्थापित की जा रही प्राकृतिक गैस परियोजनाओं से संबंधित सिफारिश पर सरकार द्वारा लिये गए निर्णय का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो सरकार द्वारा उक्त सिफारिशों पर अंतिम निर्णय कब तक ले लिए जाने की संभावना है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी० आर० बालू): (क) और (ख) प्राकृतिक गैस के मूल्यों में संशोधन संस्तुत करने के सीमित उद्देश्य से सरकार द्वारा वर्ष 1989 में केलकर समिति का गठन किया गया था। समिति ने वर्ष 1990 में अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की थी तथा इस समिति की सिफारिशें 01 जनवरी, 1992 से 31 दिसम्बर, 1995 तक क्रियान्वित की गई है जोकि संस्तुत मूल्य निर्धारण अवधि की मियाद थी।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

परियोजनाओं की निर्माण लागत में वृद्धि

406. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सितम्बर, 1997 में देश के विभिन्न भागों में अनेक परियोजनाएं निर्माणाधीन थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनकी कुल संख्या कितनी है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि परियोजनाओं का देरी से निर्माण शुरू करने के कारण अनेक परियोजनाओं की निर्माण लागत में वृद्धि हुई है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उन परियोजनाओं की संख्या कितनी है और उनकी मूल लागत की तुलना में निर्माण लागत में कितनी वृद्धि हुई है;

(ङ) क्या इस बढ़ी हुई लागत के कारणों के संबंध में सूचना एकत्र की गई है; और